



Trustees Attending: Greg Brakebill, Stephanie Thompson, Dawn Reagan, Shawn Graham, Richard Fogg, Dexter Stewart, Robert White

Staff Attending: Dustin Goforth - Director, Anjanae Brueland, Summer Dale

Visitors: Vandy Kemp - Friends of the Blount County Public Library, Liz Schrek - Ocoee River Regional Library

The Board Meeting Packet, including the Library Director's Report, was made available on 6 May 2025.

Call to Order: Greg Brakebill called the Blount County Public Library Board to order on 20 May 2025 at 5:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Stephanie Thompson made a motion to approve the 15 April 2025 BOT Meeting minutes with corrections. Dexter Stewart seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Public Comment:

- The board heard comments from 0 members of the public.

Report of Board of Trustees Chair by Greg Brakebill:

- Greg Brakebill welcomed Dustin Goforth for his first official in-person meeting and thanked Anjanae Brueland for her interim directorship.
- He announced the May 27th Bookie Monster Ribbon Cutting at noon and various meetings he will attend, such as the meeting with Director Goforth, Trevis Gardner, and Vandy Kemp.
- Greg Brakebill shared his experience attending the Ocoee River Regional semi-annual Board Chair meeting in Athens.
- The Board discussed nominations for new trustee members and officers for the upcoming year.
- Shawn Graham was confirmed at the May Commission meeting, and the others will be voted on in June.

Nominating Committee

- Greg Brakebill shared the recommendations from the Nominating Committee which met prior to this meeting.
 - Richard Fogg as Vice Chair, Greg Brakebill as Chairman, and Summer Dale as Secretary.

Dexter Stewart made a motion to approve the nominations recommended by the Nominating Committee. Stephanie Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- The officers will begin their positions on July 1, 2025.



Report of the Blount County Public Library Director, Dustin Goforth:

- Dustin Goforth provided a status summary of his efforts since the April Board workshop, including meetings with various Board and Commission members, Friends, and Foundation members.
- Dustin mentioned his focus on learning the community's norms, this library, the staff, and the volunteers, as well as holding meetings, and introducing himself to elected officials and organizations.
- He discussed the importance of a strategic plan and the need for direction and communication with the public.
- Dustin outlined his plans for shadowing in different departments, continuing learning, and maintaining an open-door policy.
- He is focusing on learning, hearing, absorbing, and leading.

Report of Blount County Public Library Deputy Director, Anjanae Brueland:

- Anjanae Brueland shared that the Madisonville Public Library will hold a tour to see BCPL's operations. Our Library impressed their Director, and she is bringing her staff on a Staff Development Day to BCPL.
- Anjanae announced the start of summer reading and provided details about the adult reading tracker and programs.
 - She thanked past employee Beth Hall for the inspiration behind the summer reading program schedule included in the newsletter.
 - Anjanae highlighted Greg Brakebill's music program on July 24th at 6 pm.
- She mentioned the upcoming ribbon-cutting events for the bookie monster and the tween room, giving a special thanks to Rebecca Melvin and Chelsea Tarwater.
- Anjanae shared updates on the library's programs.
- She recognizes the contributions of volunteers like Marge, who has volunteered since 1991.
- Anjanae mentioned the upcoming events, including the Touch-a-Truck and Tomato Jam programs.
 - There will be a link to purchase Touch-A-Truck shirts with our Mascot emblem.
- She thanked the staff for their efforts in creating creative displays and maintaining the library's operations.
- Anjanae praised Polly Taylor for her work with the Teens and Tisha Chauncey for her work with the Louisville Locker.
- The PR team has worked hard on the Summer Reading landing page and created a new Reader's Advisory called Page Turner with daily book recommendations.
 - Please send any recommendations to bcpl.pr@blounttn.org

Report of Foundation Board, Trevis Gardner:

- Trevis was not in attendance
- The Foundation's next meeting will be on June 20th at 8 am.



Report of Friends of the Library, Vandy Kemp:

- Vandy Kemp provided an update on the Friends of the Library, including the need for more volunteers.
- She shared that the Friends of the Library will have a new mission statement and logo soon.
- June 5th through the 7th is the next Quarterly Book Sale.
 - Elevator Operator 1-hour slots are available for volunteers.
- June 18th is the Annual Members meeting in Sharon Lawson.
- The Friends' Strategic plan is still being worked on and will hopefully be ready by July 1st.
- The Friends' mission statement has been updated to reflect their commitment to fostering strong community engagement and raising funds for programs and strategic initiatives.
- Their new logo will be unveiled in the next couple of weeks.

Report of River Regional Library, Liz Schreck:

- The Ocoee River Regional Library (ORRL) Report and the READS FY 2023-24 Data Statistics were distributed by email prior to the meeting.
- Liz Shreck reported on the training opportunities for library staff and the upcoming workshops for library board members.
- She mentioned the Library Services Agreement and the importance of meeting deadlines for various documents and certifications.
 - The deadlines are included in the ORRL Report in this packet.

Old Business:

- The **Public Comment policy** was discussed.

Stephanie Thompson made a motion to approve the Public Comment Policy. Dawn Reagan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- The **Hotspot Policy** was discussed.

Richard Fogg made a motion to approve the Hotspot Policy. Dexter Stewart seconded the motion. The motion carried.

New Business:

- **TCRS - Sick Leave Accrual Resolution was presented by Justin Ball**
 - This plan would be non-retroactive and would allow current employees, as they retire, to turn unused sick leave into retirement credit.
 - This option will be added to BCPL employees' current plan if approved.
 - Anjanae Brueland discussed some of the history, the board-voted audit, and the fact that both county HR and Finance support this decision.
 - The head of HR, Jaclyn Johnson, provided a Resolution included in the Board Packet and recommended writing a letter to the Commission informing them of the Board's decision.



- Once signed and received by TCRS, it will be immediately implemented.

Shawn Graham made a motion to approve the TCRS Sick Leave Accrual Resolution. Stephanie Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- The **Library Programming** Policy was presented and discussed. No action was taken at this time.

Funding Requests:

- The **FY26 Annual Friends Funding Request** was presented.

Stephanie Thompson made a motion to approve the FY26 Annual Friends Funding Request. Dawn Reagan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- There were no Foundation Funding Requests.

Additional Closing Comments:

- The meeting concluded with expressions of gratitude and appreciation for the staff and board members' efforts.
- The staff thanked Anjanae for her directorship during the interim.
- There will be no Board meeting in July.

Important Dates:

Other Library Meetings

Blount County Commission Meeting – 19 June 2025, 6:00 pm – BC Courthouse
Blount County Friends of the Library – 27 May 2025, 4:00 pm – BCPL
Foundation for the Blount County Public Library – 22 May 2025, 8:00 am – BCPL
Maryville City Council - 3 June 2025, 7:00 pm – Maryville Municipal Bldg
Alcoa Board of Commissioners - 10 June 2025, 7:00 pm – Alcoa Municipal Bldg

Next Library Board Meeting – 17 June 2025, 5:30 pm, Sharon Lawson Room

There will be no July Meeting.

Motion to Adjourn:

Stephanie Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dexter Stewart seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next Library Board meeting will be held on 17 June 2025 at 5:30 p.m., in the Sharon Lawson Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Summer Dale